

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA***

*San Diego, California*

*United States Attorney  
Karen P. Hewitt*

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*For Immediate Release*

### **TWO DEFENDANTS SENTENCED IN CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CASES**

#### **NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - July 18, 2008**

San Diego, CA - United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced the sentencing of two defendants in two separate cases this week in federal court in San Diego based upon their convictions for possession of child pornography, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4)(B).

On July 14, 2008, Gregory Michael Box was sentenced by United States District Court Judge John A. Houston to serve 30 months in custody and 8 years of supervised release following his release from prison; Judge Houston also required Box to register as a sex offender. Box pled guilty on February 21, 2008 to possessing a computer containing between 10-150 images of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. He also admitted to engaging in sexually explicit online chats with several underage females, some as young as twelve years old. The Court remanded Box immediately into custody. At the time of his arrest, Box was employed as a wine salesman. This case stems from an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

On July 17, 2008, John Edward Grasberger was sentenced by United States District Court Judge Roger T. Benitez to serve 18 months in custody, 10 years of supervised release following his release from

prison, and 3000 hours of community service. Judge Benitez also imposed a \$150,000.00 fine and required Grasberger to register as a sex offender. Grasberger pled guilty on February 14, 2008 to possessing a computer containing between 10-150 images of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Prior to his arrest, Grasberger was an active member of the State Bar of California. He is no longer eligible to practice law in the State of California. This case stems from an investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The investigations were assisted by the San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, whose members include the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the San Diego Police Department, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, the Chula Vista Police Department, the United States Attorney's Office, the San Diego District Attorney's Office, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the United States Marshals Service, the Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, and the El Cajon Police Department.

These cases are brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafchildhood.gov).

## **DEFENDANTS**

Case No. 08cr0438-JAH

Gregory Michael Box  
Pala, California

Case No. 08cr0375-BEN

John Edward Grasberger  
La Mesa, California

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4)(B) (Possession of Child Pornography)

**AGENCIES**

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force